

A Week-Long Rule of Law Experience Sharing With Colorado Judges

Respect for rule of law is the top priority of the U.S. mission in Macedonia, but is also a cornerstone of the Macedonian constitution and society. The U.S. Embassy's efforts to prepare the Macedonian legal community for the impending new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) continued the week of May 13th with the visit of Judge Edward Bronfin and Judge Shelley Gilman from Denver, Colorado.

On May 13-14 the U.S. judges trained Macedonian CPC trainers how to do opening remarks, closing arguments, cross, direct and re-direct examination, and advised about evidentiary objections during trial. The local trainers gratefully benefited from this intensive training and said it will help them tangibly in teaching their peers at future programs. This program was presented by DOJ OPDAT in partnership with the Macedonian Academy for Judges and Prosecutors.



On May 15 at American Corner Struga and on May 17 at American Corner Skopje, the U.S. judges spearheaded an open discussion with high school and university law students on a broad array of rule of law topics, including the U.S. legal system, judicial independence, the criminal adversarial system,

mediation and corruption. The students were particularly interested to learn about all aspects of judicial function in the U.S. The judges also lectured at the International University in Struga on rule of law.



As part of the program, the U.S. judges watched a criminal trial at the Ohrid Court and toured the Ohrid Public Prosecution Office. They also participated in U.S. Government-funded CPC advanced training on pre-trial procedure and a class on crime scene investigation.